

1. A wraparound article carrier for packaging an article, the carton comprising opposed top and base walls interconnected by opposed side walls thereby forming a tubular structure, wherein an aperture is provided in the base wall to accommodate a portion of the article, and wherein a bracing tab is formed at least in part from the base wall to define the aperture and folded so as to form a spacer for causing the top and base walls to be spaced by a predetermined distance.
2. An article carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bracing tab is formed in part from one of said side walls and hingedly connected to said one side wall.
3. An article carrier as claimed in claim 2, wherein said one side wall comprises a securing flap and a side panel, said securing flap being hingedly connected to the base wall along a first fold line and extending toward the top wall to a free edge of the securing flap, said side panel being connected to the top wall and secured to said securing flap, said bracing tab being formed in part from said securing flap and hingedly connected to the securing flap along a second fold line.
4. An article carrier as claimed in claim 3, wherein the distance between said free edge of the securing flap and said second fold line is less than the distance between said free edge and said first fold line.
5. An article carrier as claimed claim 1, wherein the bracing tab extends to the top wall or a portion of the article disposed adjacent to the top wall.
6. A blank for forming a wraparound carrier for packaging an article, the blank comprising a base wall panel, a first side wall panel, a top wall panel and a second side wall panel hingedly connected together in series for forming a tubular structure, and an aperture provided in the base wall panel to accommodate a portion of the article, wherein a bracing tab is formed at least in part from the base wall panel to define the aperture and

so folded in a set up condition to form a spacer for causing the top and base wall panels to be spaced by a predetermined distance.

7. A blank as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a securing flap hingedly
5 connected to the base wall panel along a first fold line, wherein the bracing tab is formed in part from said securing flap and hingedly connected to the securing flap along a second fold line.

8. A blank as claimed in claim 7, wherein the bracing tab is sized so as to extend to
10 the top wall panel or to a portion of the article adjacent to the top wall panel in a set up condition.

9. A blank as claimed in claim 7, wherein the distance between a free edge of the
securing flap and said second fold line is less than the distance between said free edge
15 and said first fold line.

10. A wraparound article carrier for packaging an article, the carton comprising
opposed top and base walls interconnected by first and second side walls so as to form a
tubular structure, and an aperture provided in the base wall so as to receive a protruding
20 portion of the article, wherein the aperture extends into a panel adjacent the base wall so
as to facilitate the folding of the base wall panel over the protruding portion during
construction of the carton.

11. An article carrier as claimed in claim 10, wherein the panel adjacent the base wall
25 is a securing flap arranged to secure the base wall to one of said first or second side walls.

12. A article carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein the securing flap is disposed on
the inside surface of the one side wall so that a portion of the aperture in the securing flap
is covered by the one side wall.

13. A blank for forming a wraparound article carrier for packaging an article, the blank comprising in series a securing flap, a base wall panel, a first side wall panel, a top wall panel, and a second side wall panel, wherein an aperture is formed at least in part from the base wall panel so as to receive an article in use, wherein the aperture extends into a securing flap so as to facilitate the folding of the base wall panel over the article during the folding of the blank to form a carton.

14. A method of forming a wraparound carton comprising a securing flap, a base wall panel, a first side wall panel, a top wall panel, and a second side wall panel, hingedly interconnected in series so as to form a tubular structure, wherein the base wall panel has an article receiving aperture formed therein and extending into the securing flap, the method comprising the steps of:

- i) introducing the article to the carton;
- ii) folding the base wall panel and the securing flap about a fold line hingedly interconnecting the first side wall panel and the base wall panel; and
- iii) introducing the article into a portion of the aperture extending into the securing flap while folding the base wall panel and the securing flap, thereby allowing the securing flap to clear the article.

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15. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step prior to step (ii) of placing the article on the top wall panel and folding the base wall and second side wall around the article.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of folding a bracing tab out of the plane of the base panel before the folding and introducing step, and the step of bringing the bracing tab into abutment on the top wall panel or on a portion of the article before folding the second side wall panel toward the securing flap.